



Talon

Talon

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Parade Grand Marshall



Eagle Base Fourth of July 8-9
Music, food, fun for all



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"Mad Dogs" return home

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On the Cover

Members of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry pull to victory against Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, during the 4th of July tug-o-war event held on Eagle Base. (Photo by Specialist Nancy McMillan, see pages 8-9).



In Memory of Private Nicholas Minue, of Company A, 6th Armored Infantry Division, 1st Armored Division, who was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously on March 25, 1944. (Back cover)

The Task Force Eagle Web site is located at www.tfeagle.army.mil

The Task Force Eagle web site offers breaking news and photos on its web site. The Web site provides information concerning the Turk, Russian, and NORDPOL Brigade assigned to Task Force Eagle, as well as U.S. soldiers stationed in Bosnia. The Talon On-line is updated every Saturday.

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty."

— John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address, 1961

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502nd Military Intelligence Company leaves Task Force Dagger

Story and photo by First Lieutenant Annmarie Daneker
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

A pinch of salt, a dash of pepper, a handful of this, a spoonful of that. That's a classic recipe for stew-mixing all sorts of different ingredients to make one satisfying pot of food. And for Task Force Dagger, specifically the 502nd Military Intelligence (MI) Company, attached to the 501st MI Battalion, their 10-month deployment to Bosnia was the same: a combination of different units that successfully worked together to make the mission a success.

"Task Force Dagger was formed from 10 different units from both CONUS and USAREUR," said Captain Jacqui M. Coffman, from Owosso, Mich., commander of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 502nd MI Company. "We were able to form a team in September 1997, train together for three weeks, then successfully conduct our mission here."

Coffman, who also served as the commander for HHC, 501st MI Battalion, believes that this cohesion is symbolic of the Army's standards of training.

"The fact that so many units could work so well together shows true competence and quality of today's soldiers to be able to form a team downrange," she said.

The 502nd also worked and played alongside local nationals as well. During their deployment their calendars were filled with volleyball games and classes on collecting stamps with the Tazsar Elementary School as well as soccer matches with Russian soldiers and local Tuzla schoolchildren.

Working with many different elements meant new friends for Sergeant Randall S. Lear, a regional analyst from San Diego, Calif.

"I'm glad to be going home and see my children, but I'll be losing the many friends that I've made. The people I have worked with, come from all over. There were about 10 different units that made up the Analytical Control Element (ACE) which produced all the intelligence products used for MND (N)."

For Specialist Amanda S. Paul, a collection management and dissemination specialist from Grand Rapids, Mich., her deployment to Bosnia proved to her that soldiers could pull together and work under uncertain conditions.

"This was my first duty station with the 502nd and I was uncertain as to what a deployment with my new chain of command would be like. We joined forces with soldiers from the

82nd Airborne Division, 3rd Infantry Division and the 10th Mountain Division and became the Division Intelligence element."

But while they are excited about packing up their bags and returning to Fort Polk, La., the soldiers of the 502nd MI Battalion know that they now have many new friends. Sgt. Lear sums up in one sentence what that means to him; "I'll miss Bosnia a little, but I'll miss my new friends a lot."



(From left to right) Private Geoff L. Akers and Specialist Tony B. Wood, load duffel bags into a milvan in preparation for redeployment to Fort Polk, La.



U.S. Army Astronaut Colonel James Voss answers questions from Private Anne Cyr and Specialist Shawn Rogers during breakfast.

Astronaut visits Camp Dobol during Fourth of July weekend

Story and photo by Staff Sergeant Jack McNeely
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

When asked whether he would rather return to the states or visit U.S. peacekeepers in Bosnia during an extended Fourth of July weekend, Astronaut Colonel James Voss didn't hesitate — he headed to the Balkans!

"I've wanted to visit the soldiers here for over a year now, but never could find the time," explained the 49-year-old veteran astronaut. Voss has spent the past 18 months living and training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia, as a backup crewman for the Mir Space Station.

"What better time to visit soldiers who are securing the independence of this country than on the Fourth of July — our nation's Independence Day," explained Voss, who Saturday served as Grand Marshall of the Eagle Base Fourth of July Parade.

While at Dobol, Voss entertained questions from approximately 20 soldiers during breakfast. The questions focused on his military career, on his 14 years as a member of the U.S. Army Space Command, on his three flights in space, and on his scheduled four-month stay at the new International Space Station in 1999. "My longest shuttle flight was 12 days. But

four months will be a little long to be living in a cramped area," he said.

"Welcome to Bosnia, Sir," interjected Specialist Shevaun Holmes, 24, of Hartford, Conn. Holmes is a member of the 630th Military Police Company from Bamberg, Germany.

"At least here you can go out and smell the fresh air; get a little sunshine," responded Voss, who noted that the space shuttle travels at a speed of up to five miles per second as it orbits Earth.

Since his first shuttle flight on Space Shuttle Atlantis in November 1991, Voss has logged a total of 396 orbits of Earth and 601 hours in space. His space experience culminated with his Space Shuttle Endeavor flight in September 1995, which included a spacewalk that lasted six hours and 46 minutes.

Despite his many accomplishments as an astronaut, Voss still thinks of himself first as an infantryman. "I am a soldier; I'm an infantry soldier. Just think of me as on loan to NASA," he reasoned.

Meanwhile, Voss praised those troops who are providing peace in the Balkans during Operation Joint Forge. "We need a strong military. There are only a few countries that seek peace. (Our) job is not to go out and kill people; it is to prevent war. If we weren't here, there would be war," concluded the Opelika, Ala., native.

Camp Dobol Fourth of July revelry observed with bonfire

Story and photo by
Staff Sergeant Jack McNeely
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

While other Operation Joint Forge troops throughout the Tuzla Valley celebrated Independence Day with the customary parade, cookout and other predictable outdoor activities, infantry soldiers at Camp Dobol lit up the starless night sky in their own unique way.

Since a traditional fireworks display would not be a prudent event in the heart of the Zone of Separation, members of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Division (Charlie 2-6) from Baumholder, Germany, celebrated the Fourth of July with a towering bonfire that at times fingered 50 feet into the darkness near Camp Dobol's isolated eastern perimeter.

"It's special because it's the Fourth of July," said a jovial Captain Kenny Mintz, the 29-year-old commander of Charlie 2-6. "Our families aren't here, but instead of feeling down, we are celebrating our nation's independence like one big, happy family."

According to Mintz, his troops voted to have the bonfire as their way to celebrate the Fourth of July. "This gives us a chance to unwind together instead of working together," he said.

It was that "working together" that earned the infantry soldiers accolades from Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J.J. Smith, commander of 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry, which recently occupied Camp Dobol.

"This is a high-spirited infantry unit and I'm glad to be associated with it," Smith said of Charlie 2-6, which has performed numerous security missions in the politically charged Serb city of Srebrenica since arriving at Dobol in February.

"What they're doing is soldiers enjoying being soldiers. It's what you call esprit de corps among combat arms," added Smith, who earlier on Saturday traveled to Hill 1326 to recite the Declaration of Independence to his troops there.

Other Dobol soldiers participated in the usual Fourth of July activities such as volleyball and horseshoe tournaments, indoor activities and an MWR-sponsored concert by the hard rock band, Aska. Meanwhile, Charlie 2-6



Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J.J. Smith, commander of 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry, acknowledges the outstanding efforts of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry.

soldiers continued to bond by tossing one another into a mud pit, jumping through the bonfire flames and playing a friendly game of full-contact football.

"I'd rather do this than the normal Fourth of July stuff," said Private First Class Beau Casanova, a 20-year-old infantry medic from Wallingford, Conn. "This will be one of my most memorable Fourth of Julys."

Perhaps every U.S. peacekeeper here in the war-scarred Balkans could echo those same sentiments on our nation's birthday.



Private First Class Daniel B. Parish leads his unit in the tug of war competition during the 4th of July activities.



First Lieutenant David J. Creasman participates in the sit-up competition during the 4th of July festivities.

Bedrock Fourth of July

Story and photos by Sergeant Tim Fischer
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

When most Americans think of Independence Day, they think of family cookouts in the backyard, complete with badminton games, Frisbee throwing, fireworks and generally enjoying the time off from work. Although the peacekeeping forces at Camp Bedrock cannot be at home for this traditional type of 4th of July celebration, they are still celebrating Independence Day in their own way.

According to Private First Class Max R. Maldonado, the celebrations have been enjoyable for the troops. "Competition between the different companies is a great way to bring the troops' morale up," said Maldonado, a 28-year-old Brooklyn, N.Y. native. "The 4th of July just brings out the best in all of us."

The Fourth of July activities began Friday and continued through Sunday, with various activities fulfilling all of the recreational needs of the soldiers at "the Rock." First sergeant for 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment out of Baumholder, Germany, Frank E. Patterson, was a key figure in the development of the weekend activities. Patterson worked directly with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator at Bedrock to produce a fun and relaxing weekend of holiday activities for the soldiers.



Private Aurelio A. Sandoval takes time off for a bite

y celebration

"What we tried to do for the troops was give them many opportunities to compete in the 4th of July activities," said Patterson, a 21-year-old veteran from Dublin, Ind. "It is a relaxed environment here, we want them to have fun and relax."

A live performance by hard rock band "Aska" kicked off the weekend on Friday. This concert was followed by a multitude of platoon versus platoon competitions throughout the rest of the weekend.

Every soldier had a chance to participate in at least one of the events, as there was literally something for everyone, ranging from the toughest physical fitness challenges to the mental challenges of Trivial Pursuit. Several tournament-type challenges were held including basketball, horseshoes, chess, Ping-Pong, darts, and many other fun and relaxing events.

The spirit of friendly competition was certainly alive and well all weekend. "Participating in the 4-man relay race was tons of fun for me," stated Maldonado with the Headquarters Company, 2-6. "Although this is not your typical 4th of July celebration we have had fun competing against the other companies." All of the participants agreed that although they would prefer to be in their own backyard throwing a Frisbee with the family dog, the Independence Day Celebration at Bedrock was plenty of fun for everyone.



Camp Bedrock soldiers enjoy watching the tug of war competition during the 4th of July festivities.



of watermelon during the 4th of July weekend.



Sergeant Matthew R. Bacon goes up for two points in the basketball tournament during the 4th of July celebration.

Eagle Celebrates Fourth of July at new 'F'

Story by Specialist Nancy McMillan
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

An overcast and rainy morning did not dampen the spirits of American soldiers, local dignitaries and many other foreign nationalities gathered for the all-day festivities during the 4th of July celebration on Eagle Base.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Clarke started the day with a patriotic speech and welcoming invitation to hundreds of individuals gathered about the newly-built deck and picnic tables located in front of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building.

After the Star Spangled Banner was sung by the Liberty Misses, a parade of cleverly created floats traveled down "salute alley" in homage of an American pastime.

As the last vehicle inched down the parade route, people clad in BDUs, PT uniforms and civilian attire, followed behind toward the next event.

With the area filled with guests, base residents and Brown & Root employees, Major General Larry Ellis and Command

Sergeant Major C...
one of two bridge...
park was dedicat...
Medal-of-Honor

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American indepe



Photo by First Lieutenant Annmarie Danecker, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Hundreds of soldiers, such as these three, took a break from work this past 4th of July to enjoy the food and festivities during the day-long celebration.



Photo by Specialist Nancy McMillan, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Astronaut Colonel James S. Voss, USA, crew member for the Russian space station Mir, rides down salute alley next to the custom-made space shuttle during the 4th of July parade held on Eagle Base.

Freedom Park'

Carl Christian cut the decorative ribbon across the new "Freedom Park." The ceremony was led by Private Nicholas Minue, a World War II recipient.

After the ceremony, a tasty spread of barbecue chicken, corn, beans, ribs, shrimp, potato salad and a variety of desserts and drinks were offered to satisfy every hungry eater.

The celebration was not in the calling after appeasing their thirst, it was quite the opposite. Soldiers, dressed in shorts and tennis shoes or BDUs and boots, set out in the park for championships in volleyball, basketball, flag football, tug-of-war, darts, Humvee pull, and several other games.

As the celebration started winding down, the Liberty Misses performed a show for the late-evening audience. The rousing musical show brought a close to the festive Fourth of July celebration and the 222nd birthday of the United States.



Photo by Specialist Nancy McMillan, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Major General Larry Ellis and Command Sergeant Major Carl Christian unveil the Minue memorial sign during the 4th of July dedication ceremony of the newly-built park located along salute alley on Eagle Base.



Photo by Specialist Nancy McMillan, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The 440th Signal Battalion proudly display the Roadrunner mascot down salute alley during the 4th of July parade held on Eagle Base.



Photo by First Lieutenant Annmarie Danecker, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Task Force Eagle soldiers play a challenging game of volleyball during the 4th of July celebration, as non-participants quietly relax in observance.

Camp McGovern Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Story and photos by Corporal William Coker
304th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

July 4th is celebrated across the United States with many different activities. The U.S. military does it no differently. Camp McGovern had a number of sport activities for all the troops stationed here. The activities included volleyball, 3-on-3 basketball, soccer and softball tournaments, horseshoes, table tennis, tug-of-war, a flak vest relay, karaoke at the ZOS Cafe and an old-fashion barbecue. The Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) team at McGovern held the events on the 4th and 5th of July.

Keeping with the military's emphasis on esprit de corps, the tug-of-war event was rich with shouts of encouragement from both sides. Sergeant Luis Rodriguez, from Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, based out of Baumholder, Germany, was especially vocal, lending his moral support at the flak vest relay and tug-of-war (both events that Delta Company won).

"It's important to maintain unit morale. I feel our troops had an edge because of that support," said Rodriguez.

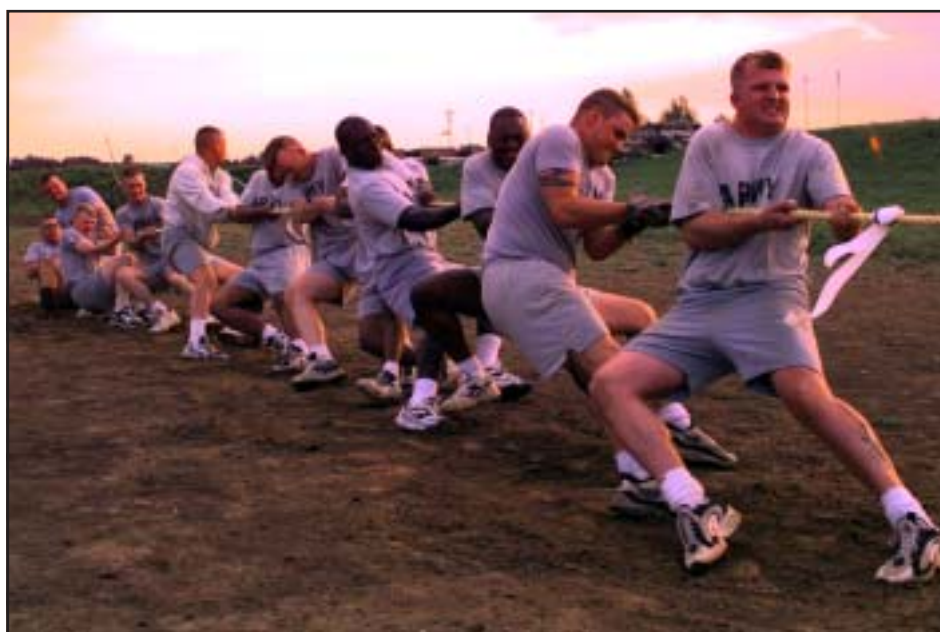
The softball and soccer tournaments both marked the start of the summer leagues for the two sports at McGovern. Lisa Passalacqua, MWR coordinator for McGovern, said that all the weekend events had an excellent turnout.

"We had 80 people show up for karaoke at the ZOS Cafe. I had to stop it at 2300 because it was getting too late," said Passalacqua.

She also added, "I feel that MWR provides a great service to the troops. I am just glad that the soldiers seem to think so too."



A flak vest relay participant nears the passing lane for the end of his leg.



Members of the 1st BN, 35th Armored Brigade give one last tug before losing the tug-of-war match to Company C, 40th Engineer Brigade.



recreation team sponsors Fourth events



Three on three basketball tournament participants prepare for a possible rebound.



A soldier loads up his plate during the base camp's block party in celebration of Independence Day.



Soldiers compete in the billiard tournament held at the ZOS Cafe.

U.S. Army's longest serving cavalry regiment



The color guard furls the colors as the 2 ACR concludes the transfer of authority ceremonies at Task Force Eagle headquarters.

Story and photos by Sergeant First Class Frank
345th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Under the auspices of a beautiful sunny July, the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment's deployment came to an end. The 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment is returning to the United States.

Another chapter is written in the rich, 162 year history of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Another transfer of authority (TOA) ceremony, J.

The 2 ACR's participation in Operation Joint Forge, August 1997. And now during Operation Joint Forge, the 2 ACR is moving on.

In the closing ceremonies, Major General Larry L. Ellis, commander of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, thanked the 2 ACR for their accomplishments. From the countless presence of the 2 ACR, from the countless exhumations, resettlements and more, too many to list.

Ellis graciously thanked Command Sergeant Major Harold Doucete, an enlisted noncommissioned officer and as the Task Force Eagle commander, is the best day to be a soldier and this mission is so important. It took pride in themselves. Together, we have made a difference, said Christian.

Ellis thanked the 2 ACR for their humanitarian efforts and their continuity to its people. "Your soldiers have performed a mission for which to be proud," Ellis said to Hardy and Christian. "The people of Bosnia."

"It's been a good ride," concluded Hardy, as the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment's "Leather and Ride." The 2nd Dragoons prepared to leave. "TOUJOURS PRET"



Colonel Volney J. Warner and Command Sergeant Major Harold Doucete unfurl the 2nd Brigade colors to commence duty under Operation Joint Forge.



Major John A. Hadjas, executive officer, along

ent leaves Bosnia

Casares

uly day at Eagle Base, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, another successful
mored Cavalry Regiment (2 ACR), the longest continually serving
Army, commanded by Colonel Dennis E. Hardy, handed over the
of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

rs of history of the 2 ACR, as the "2nd Dragoons" participate in yet
uly 3, 1998.

Guard began as two ground squadrons crossed the Sava River in
rge, with satisfaction in their hearts for a job well done, they must

ry R. Ellis, MND (N) Commander, praised the 2 ACR for all their
patrols, weapons storage site inspections, elections, gravesites
y to mention, the 2nd Dragoons performed admirably.

Major Carl E. Christian for performing both as the 2 ACR's top
x Force Eagle's command sergeant major. "I always say that today
evident that our soldiers performed professionally, honorable and
le an impact on this country and we take fond memories with us,"

an efforts to help rebuild this ravaged land and bring some kind of
ormed excellent in every facet of this mission and you have much
hristian. "Greatest of all, is the positive impact you've had on the

he proud 2 ACR bugler sat astride his horse and played "Hit the
to leave for Fort Polk, La., to await their next assignment.



Colonel Dennis E. Hardy, 2nd ACR commander, bids farewell and thanks to his troops for a job well done.



with the 2 BDE staff, stands in formation.



Bugler, Major Robert L. White, Jr., sits astride his horse, reminiscence of the 2 ACR's early cavalry days.

Army Soldier Show a hit

Story and photo by First Lieutenant Annmarie Daneker
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

During a standard deployment to Bosnia, soldiers will enjoy all sorts of entertainment at Club 21, from talent shows to fashion shows to dances. But it was a different story when the 1998 U.S. Army Soldier Show rolled into Eagle Base on June 29, treating soldiers to an evening of singing, dancing and all around good fun.

There was a type of music for almost every preference: opera, country, folk, gospel, pop—even a little bit of funky disco, complete with king-sized Afros! But the most exciting part of the show was that the performers are some of our very own: Army soldiers who have auditioned, rehearsed, temporarily left their duty station and now travel around and entertain service members.

The show is comprised of all ranks and many different Military Occupational Specialties. One of the singers, First Lieutenant Elaine Marie Gullatta, was “borrowed” from the California National Guard. Gullatta, from 540th Main Support Battalion, 40th Infantry Division, Bell, Calif., is on her second tour with the show.

“I was a member of the first Soldier Show 15 years ago. Many of this year’s cast are alumni from past shows,” Gullatta said.

But even though they were experienced, the performers still had to pass muster.

“We all auditioned by videotape and then if we made it past

that round, we auditioned in person,” Gullatta said. Eager participants are put through many interviews, an Army Physical Fitness Test, Class A uniform inspections and then, if they make it, weeks of grueling rehearsals before opening night.

Eagle Base was just one of the many stops for this year’s presentation. The show premiered in Fort Belvoir, Va., in May and will cover bases in over 20 U.S. states as well as Germany and Italy, with the tour ending in November.

For the soldiers at Eagle Base, the show was a night away from work and the efforts of the cast and crew did not go unnoticed.

“I really do appreciate the soldiers who performed in the show for coming to Bosnia,” said Sergeant Arletha E. Hill, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division (HHC, 1 AD). “I enjoyed the intensity and the variety of music and the many different talents displayed by each member.”

“The show was very motivating. It was inspiring in the fact that these soldiers took the time from their busy schedules to perform for their fellow soldiers in Bosnia,” added Private First Class Lloyd A. Bailey, also of HHC, 1st Armored Division. But for Bailey, the fact that these were soldiers in a different type and color of duty uniform was what impressed him the most. “It was nice to know that there are some people back in the rear who are still thinking about us,” he said.

Although the cast and crew of the 1998 U.S. Army Soldier Show were packed and on a plane within two hours after the final song, the memory of their cheerful and motivating performance will stay with Eagle Base soldiers for a long time.



Army Soldier Show performers entertain the soldiers of Task Force Eagle.

B Company, 16 Engineers TOA



Captain John Buck, B Company commander, hands the ceremonial ZOS marker to Lieutenant Colonel Michael Helmick, Battalion Commander, during the TOA ceremony.

Story and photo by Staff Sergeant Terry L. Welch
345th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

If you happened to be on the south side of Brcko near the rail station, on Tuesday, June 30, you would have seen a lot of happy soldiers. B Company, 16th Engineer Battalion was preparing to go home.

Trucks moved slowly up ramps onto flatbed railcars, soldiers joked and waited for their turns to load vehicles. Outside, hamburgers were grilled and dinner was served because the combat engineers – “Mad Dogs” – would be at the railhead all day. And most of the night.

A week before, the engineers had handed over authority of the area around Camps Colt and McGovern to C Company, 40th Engineer Battalion after a four-month deployment. While four months might not seem like a long time to some, it should be noted that many of the “Mad Dogs” had been here before on an 11-month deployment, before the 23rd Engineering Battalion was “reflagged” as the 16th.

It is also important to realize the sheer amount of work the soldiers of B Company completed, regardless of the length of their stay. Minelifting operations were the major tasking for the unit, but bunker demolitions, bridge demolitions, guard duty and Quick Reaction Force requirements were also placed on the engineers. Eutaw, Ala., native Sergeant First Class Michael Williams, said the operational tempo was phenomenal. “When I look back at the mission, the tempo really sticks out in my mind. Sometimes we’d work 30 days straight – from 0700 to 2300 – without a day off.”

And the “Mad Dogs” accepted the work without comment.

As First Sergeant Terry Schmitt, of Salt Lake City, Utah, put it, “They ran anywhere from four to five missions a day with little or no complaining.”

As the soldiers leave Bosnia, it seems that they’re in the mood for reflection. The Assault and Obstacles Platoon Leader, First Lieutenant Jason Borg said they all remember as they leave, that Bosnia-Herzegovina is now a safer place for their having been there. “There’s no question about it,” the Seattle native said. “Every mine that’s taken out of the ground is a mine less that the people of this country have to worry about.”

During their time here, the combat engineers ran minelifting operations on their own with the help of their “Panther” remote control tank, as well as oversaw the minelifting efforts of the Entity Armed Forces. Borg said that no matter how the mines were removed, he saw reasons every day for their removal. “There were a lot of kids going out and playing in their fields and all the time they would come up to me and say *Meen-uh! Meen-uh! Meen-uh!* and point to a mine on the ground in a place they played every day,” he said. “I think it’s the number one priority here, getting the land safe.”

Schmitt added that working with the factions was also a memorable experience. “They’ve seen what combat engineers can do for them, and with them, and we saw what they worked like. It’s been a good, equal partnership.”

Partnerships and teams have also been built within the unit. “Everyone had been in my platoon eight months or less, so this tour gave us a chance to work together in close quarters, to learn about one another’s do’s and don’ts,” Williams said.

The unit departed MND (N) for Giessen, Germany on July 1.



General Larry R. Ellis and Command Sergeant Major Carl E. Christian cut the decorative ribbon across a bridge leading to the new Freedom Park that was dedicated to Private Nicholas Minue, of Company A, 6th Armored Infantry Division, 1st Armored Division. Private Minue distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the loss of his life, above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy on April 28, 1943, in the vicinity of Medjezelbab, Tunisia.